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Regional NSW in the Spotlight

Which area has the least crime in NSW? How many children have been immunised? How many families use child care?

For the answers to these and hundreds of other fascinating questions about NSW turn to the *Regional Statistics New South Wales 2000* publication, released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

New features in the publication this year include post-school qualifications and social indicators.

Old favourites brought together from a range of ABS sources include: area, population, births and deaths, building statistics, hotels and motels, local council financial data, labour force and educational attainment data, disability, health, crime, education and training and child care.

Some examples from the publication:

- Canterbury-Bankstown recorded the largest decrease in unemployment rates between 1998 (7.8 percent) and 1999 (4.2 percent), a decrease of 3.6 percentage points.
- Just over half (51.1 percent) of children aged 3 months to 6 years in the South Eastern Statistical Division (SD) were fully immunised to schedule in April 1995.
- Central Western Sydney Statistical Subdivision (SSD) recorded the highest victimisation rates for both household (24.0 percent) and personal (23.3 percent) crime in the 12 months to April 1997.
- Murray-Murrumbidgee SDs recorded the lowest victimisation rates for both household (7.1 percent) and personal (5.3 percent) crime in the 12 months to April 1997.
- As at March 1996, almost three-quarters (74.7 percent) of families in the Northern Beaches SSD used child care compared to just over one-third (35.3 percent) of families in the Central Western Sydney SSD.
- In 1997, an estimated 50,700 people in the Hunter SD had skilled vocational qualifications and a further 47,900 people had basic vocational qualifications.
- Blacktown SLA recorded the highest number of births with 4,149 babies born in 1997-98.
- Sydney City had the highest number (64) of hotels, motels, etc. with facilities at 30 June 1999. These establishments have 13,287 guest rooms and 31,470 bed spaces between them.

The publication contains information down to local council level. Media requiring copies of **Regional Statistics New South Wales 2000** (cat. no. 1362.1) for reporting purposes should contact Jill Tomlinson (02) 9268 4123 to obtain a copy.

Retail copies of **Regional Statistics New South Wales 2000** (cat. no. 1362.1) are available from

the ABS Bookshop, Level 5, St Andrew's House, Sydney.

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